

The DRAPIER
DEMOLISHED

AND

Set out in his own

Proper Colours; being a full Confutation of all his Arguments against Mr. WOOD's Halfpence.

By *William Wood, Esq;*

Ye good People of Ireland,

I Make not the least doubt, when ye have impartially weighed, and considered what I shall offer upon the present Occasion in my own defence, and against your Drapier; When ye shall make an exact *Assay* of the Arguments on both Sides between him and me; And lastly when ye shall observe, as I shall point it out, the abusive and reproachful Language with which he has treated me, I say, (as I said before) I make not the least Doubt, but ye will all to a Man reject him, and embrace me with open Arms.

In his first Letter to the *Tradesmen, Shop-keepers, Farmers, and Common People in general of the Kingdom of Ireland*. He begins with the wheedling Preamble of *Brethren, Friends, Country-men and Fellow-Subjects*. A Loving beginning indeed! But I wonder which of us two Loves you best, He that is getting you no

Money at all, or I who am this Present providing more Money for you than you shall know what to do with. O Sad ! O Sad ! I am really concerned for the poor Drapier. Soon after he proceeds and says.

It is a great Fault among you, that when a Person writes with no other Intention than to do you good, you will not be at the Pains to read his Advices.

Artful enough indeed ! This he did to draw you in like so many Gudgeons, to Swallow his false Arguments, and you see he has accomplished his End at last ; For had ye not read his Letters, ye might have had the Benefit of my Half-pence these five or six Months past.

Page. 4. Now you must know that the Half-pence and Farthings in England pass for very little more than they are worth, and if you should beat them to Pieces, and sell them to the Brazier you would not lose above a Penny in a Shilling. But Mr. Woods made his Half-pence of such base Metal and so much Smaller than the English ones, that the Brazier would not give you above a Penny of good Money for a Shilling of his.

Ay would he give Three-pence.----- But one may see his Malice here with half an Eye ; He does not tell you of the vast Expence and trouble I am at in Coining ; The Number of Clerks I keep in Pay ; How much I was out of Pocket in getting my Patent ; The great Expence I shall be at in Shipping them to Ireland ; which must in the Nature of things be a vast draw back to the Profit which I ought to have for my Trouble, and therefore it cannot be supposed I can either put as much or as good Copper in the Half-pence for Ire-

land,

land, as those for England. But good Lord! is not a Half-penny a Half-penny once it is call'd so and if it passes for a Half-penny can you expect any more? Good People never mind one Word he says. Though he tells you a Dozen Hats at five Shillings a Piece, which is three Pound, is but five Shillings in my Money; This is perfect Transubstantiation to juggle ye out of your Senses. --- three Pound is but five Shillings! Well; if this be his Computation I have done.

Page 5. *This same Mr. Wood was able to attend constantly for his own Interest; (and why should I not) He is an English man and had great Friends (God be thanked for that) and it seems knew very well where to give Money to those that would Speak to others, that could Speak to the King, and could tell a fair Story. I grant that, and what would he infer? Then he proceeds if his Majesty the King saw that it would utterly ruin the Kingdom of Ireland, He would shew his Displeasure to some Body or another. But a Word to the Wise is enough. We know his meaning by his Mumping, He had as well Spoken what he thought like an honest Man. In the same Page at the the Bottom you will read. Most of you must have heard, with what Anger our Honourable House of Commons received an Account of this Woods's Patent. There were several fine Speeches made upon it and plain Proofs that it was all a wicked Cheat from the Bottom to the Top, and several Smart Votes were Printed which that same Woods had the Assurance to Answer likewise in Print, and in so confident a way as if he were a better Man than our whole Parliament put together.* The

The Parliament was Angry--made Speeches found me to be a wicked Cheat----and I answered as if had been a better Man than the whole Parliament----- Well I find this Drapier will say any thing, but I am very glad all the Kingdom of Ireland knows to the Contrary. Let the Drapier answer me only these three Questions; Where did this Parliament sit? and where are the Speeches? And where is my Answer?

Page 6. *The Common Soldier when he goes to the Market or Ale-house will offer this Money (meaning my Half-pence) and if it be refused, perhaps he will Swagger and hector, and threaten to beat the Butcher or Ale-wife (threaten indeed! he will do it in earnest) or take the Goods by Force, and throw them the bad Half-pence. (why should he not? is it any Robbery if he pays them?) In this and the like Cases, the Shop-keeper, or Victualer, or any other Tradesman has no more to do than to demand ten times the Price of his Goods, if it is to paid in Woods's Money; for Example, TWENTY PENCE FOR A QUART OF ALE. The Devil is in his Conscience, TWENTY PENCE FOR A QUART OF ALE! I believe such another Proposal was never since Adam---To consider all other things in Proportion what Mischief would this Occasion. That is fifteen Shillings a Bottle for Claret at Eighteen Pence a Bottle; For a Flask of Burgundy five and forty Shillings; Fifty Shillings a Day for a Coach; Ten Shillings a Dinner at a twelve-penny Ordinary; Thirty Shillings a Day for a Chair; Ten pence a fresh Egg; Five pence*

a Half penny Roll; Two pence half penny for a Pint of Small Beer. In short by his Advice, *Vitualers, Vintners, and Trades-Folks* would soon get all the Money of the Kingdom into their own Hands should they all follow the *Pot of Ale Example*. And now to consider the Poor they would be undone by the *DRAPIER's* Advice; The Butcher would have eighteen-pence for a Sheep's Head; The Baker ten Shillings for a twelve-penny Loaf; and thus would it be in Proportion as to all their other Exigencies. No, no, rather take my Advice; *Two pence a Quart, and my Blessing.*

Page the 7th. He denies that my Half-pence are lawful Money of *England, or Ireland*. I suppose then he would have them lawful Money of *Scotland or Wales*; For they must be lawful somewhere. For does he think under the Scarcity of Money we find at present, that we can afford to let Fourscore and Ten thousand Pound lyedead. I need no other Argument to shew what a Friend he is to the *Publick*.

Page 8. *They say 'Squire C.---y has Sixteen thousand Pounds a Year, now if he sends for his Rent to Town as it is likely he does, he must have Two hundred and Forty Horses to bring up his Half Years Rent.*

Suppose he must, where is the great Hardship? If a Man of Twelve thousand a Year cannot afford Two hundred and forty Horses to draw his Money, he deserves to want it. I'll engage his Under-Tenants will lay it down at his Door, and it shall not cost him a Farthing for the Carriage.

Pag. 9. *These Half-pence if they once pass will soon be Counterfeit, because it may be cheaply done the Stuff is so Base. The Dutch likewise will probably do the same thing and send them over to us to pay for our Goods.*

The Stuff is good Stuff let him say what he will, and the Half-pence are good Half-pence and I will stand by it; If I made them of Silver it would be the same thing to this Grumbler. As for their being Counterfeit, sure they Counterfeit Gold and Silver, and can one help that? for there ever have been Rogues of Coiners in the World, and will be to the End of it. As for the Dutch, it is time enough to complain when they do Coin. I am certain they have not coined one Half-penny as yet; and if they should, I shall take care to Stock you so well that you shall have no occasion for theirs so that they may carry them home again if they please.

Pag. 10. *It would be very hard if all Ireland should be put into one Scale, and this sorry fellow Woods into the other, that Mr. Wood and his Half-pence should weigh down this whole Kingdom, by which England gets above a Million of good Money every Year clear into their Pockets, and that is more than the English do by all the World beside.*

Petulant Montes-----But I beg Pardon for talking to him in a Language which he does not understand.

Pag. 11. *A Famous Law-Book, call'd the Mirrour of Justice, discoursing of the Articles (or Laws) ordained by our Antient Kings declares the Law to be as follows: It was ordained that no King of this Realm should*

Change,

Change, Impair or Amend or make any Money than of Gold or Silver without the Assent of all the Counties, that is, as my Lord Coke says, without the 2 Inst. 576. Assent of Parliament.

Then he concludes according to Custom with his fine flattering Speeches.

Pag. 14. I will now my dear Friends to save you the Trouble, set before you in short what the Law obliges you to do, and what it does not oblige you to. (This Drapier is an excellent Lawyer, I wonder he is not made a Lord Chancellor.)

First, You are obliged to take all Money in Payments, which is Coined by the King and is of the English Standard or Weight provided it be of Gold or Silver.

Secondly, You are not obliged to take any Money which is not of Gold or Silver.

Thirdly, Much less are you obliged to take those vile Half-pence of that same Woods.

Therefore my Friends stand to it one and all, refuse this filthy Trash; it is no Treason to rebel against Mr. Wood, His Majesty in his Patent obliges nobody to take these Half-pence.

So then, at this Rate they were coined for no body, by some body, and somebody is to get nothing by no body. I have made a fine Hand of my Patent and Coinage. Ye see Gentlemen the Force of that Argument which the Drapier offers, but I find Logick is not his Talent. Thus have I with great Patience gone through this Injurious Piece of Satyr upon my self contained in this first Letter. But knowing that the best Undertakers have always met with Enemies and Detractors

Detractors, I comfort my self that I have so far defeated this malicious Author, That you are all convinced, I am now for all your Goods, and tho' a perfect Stranger to the Country of *Ireland*, yet a little time will shew what Industry and Pains it has cost me, to make you a flourishing and a happy People. It is my Inclination to preserve a good Understanding between me and you, however wicked People may endeavour to interpose. Before I conclude, I have one Complaint more, I am told, That *Pitiful, Malicious, Insidious, Undermining Scribbling Drapier* set on a Parcel of *Tatter'd, Filthy, Irish, Buttermilk Potatoe Scoundrels* to carry my Effigies about in *Wood*, and afterwards hang it at *Stephen's-Green*; for which I hope when the Parliament Sits to have ample Satisfaction. I am glad that none of the Gentry of *Ireland* were concern'd in that Abominable Procession,

I am, your best Friend,

W. W.

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